

Message Text

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43

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TAGS: EEC, BE, PFOR

SUBJECT: TINDEMANS PRESENTS BELGIAN SUMMIT PROPOSAL ON EUROPEAN
UNIFICATION

SUMMARY. PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS, SPEAKING IN SENATE DEBATE
ON EUROPEAN UNIFICATION, DISCLOSED THAT BELGIUM PLANS INITIATIVE
TO REVIVIFY EUROPEAN UNION MOVEMENT AT UPCOMING SUMMIT
MEETING. TINDEMANS SAID BELGIUM WILL PROPOSE WORKING GROUP
BE SET UP, HEADED BY A CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT, TO STUDY REFORM
MEASURES AND MAKE CONCRETE PROPOSALS TO ANOTHER SUMMIT AT END OF
1975 OR EARLY 1976. TINDEMANS HOPES TO BE THE CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT
CHOSEN TO UNDERTAKE THE "WISE MAN" TASK. END SUMMARY.

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

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1. FONMIN RENAAT VAN ELSLANDE OPENED SENATE DEBATE NOVEMBER 20

BY PRESENTING REPORT ON CURRENT STATE OF EUROPE AND FOUR PROPOSALS THAT EC FOMMINS HAVE PRESENTED FOR ADOPTION BY SUMMIT. HE RECALLED THAT BELGIAN POSITION CALLS FOR NO RETREAT ON PLANS TO REALIZE UNION BY 1980. HE SAID REINFORCEMENT, NOT WEAKENING OF COMMUNITY IS NEEDED, AND POLITICAL COOPERATION MUST BE INTENSIFIED TO PERMIT EC TO SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE.

2. IN DEBATE WHICH FOLLOWED MOST SENATORS EXPRESSED PESSIMISM REGARDING PROGRESS ON UNIFICATION AND DESIRE OF MEMBER STATES TO PUSH FORWARD. HOWEVER, CONSENSUS WAS THAT COMMUNITY SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED AND "DEMOCRATIZED" BY DIRECT ELECTION OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT.

3. TINDEMANS THEN MADE PRESENTATION IN WHICH HE DECLARED THERE WAS NEED TO RELAUNCH EFFORT TO PERFECT EUROPEAN UNION. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT UK COULD NOT NOW COMMIT ITSELF TO DIRECT ELECTION OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT OR TO MAJORITY VOTE RULE IN EC DECISION MAKING. NEVERTHELESS STRUCTURAL REFORMS WERE IMPERATIVE. HE THEREFORE PROPOSED THAT WORKING GROUP HEADED BY A CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT, BE SET UP "PERHAPS BY THIS SUMMIT" BRACKETS IN DECEMBER UNBRACKETS TO STUDY PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE STRUCTURE OF EC. WORKING GROUP WOULD SEEK VIEWS OF ALL INTERESTED SEGMENTS OF SOCIETY IN MEMBER COUNTRIES AND PREPARE DURING SECOND HALF OF 1975 SYNTHESIS OF RESULTS OF VARIOUS STUDIES NOW PROJECTED OR PROPOSED. THIS COULD BE SUBMITTED TO ANOTHER SUMMIT AT END OF 1975 OR EARLY 1976. THUS DECISIONS ON INSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS WOULD BE POSTPONED FOR ONE YEAR, BUT AN INTEGRATED STRUCTURAL REFORM CONCEPT WOULD RESULT IN THE END INSTEAD OF SERIES OF SEPARATE REFORM PROPOSALS NOW IN PROSPECT. END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. AUTHORITATIVE FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE TOLD US IN CONFIDENCE THAT TINDEMANS IS OFFERING HIMSELF TO HEAD "WISE MEN" TYPE OF STUDY. SOURCE SAID THAT TINDEMANS BELIEVES THAT EC-9 GOVERNMENTS ARE IN DANGER OF BOGGING DOWN IN SERIES OF ONE-SHOT OR LIMITED-SCOPE MEASURES DESIGNED TO OVERCOME PRESENT STAGNATION IN EUROPEAN UNION MOVEMENT. TINDEMANS BELIEVES SOLUTION IS TO PULL TOGETHER SMALL WORKING GROUP REPRESENTING THE VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS AND INTERESTS CONCERNED WITH THIS SUBJECT WHICH WOULD BRING ALL PROSPECTIVE REFORM PROPOSALS INTO A COHERENT PATTERN.

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5. SOURCE SAID ONE OF TINDEMANS' AIMS IS TO CREATE A SITUATION MAKING IT MUCH EASIER FOR BRITISH LABOR GOVT TO KEEP UK IN EC. HE SAID WORKING GROUP COULD BEAR IN MIND UK NEEDS IN WORKING OUT REFORM CONCEPTS, THEREBY REDUCING DANGERS IMPLICIT IN AN ABRASIVE "RENEGOTIATION" OF BRITISH MEMBERSHIP TERMS. SOURCE SAID TINDEMANS AND HIS ADVISERS DO NOT FAVOR BRANDT PROPOSAL FOR DIFFERENTIATION AMONG EC MEMBERS. REASON IS THAT ONCE ONE

ESTABLISHES A GAP BETWEEN GROUPS OF MEMBERS, THE TENDENCY FOR GAP TO WIDEN BECOMES NEARLY IRRESISTIBLE. "YOU ARE ONLY A STEP FROM CREATING A NEW FREE-TRADE AREA," SOURCE SAID.

6. COMMENT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT TINDEMANS THINKS HE IS LOGICAL MAN FOR THE 'WISE MAN' JOB, SINCE TASK SHOULD OBVIOUSLY GO TO HEAD OF ONE OF SMALLER MEMBER GOVERNMENTS WHO HAS FRIENDLY LINES OUT IN ALL DIRECTIONS-A PM LIKE TINDEMANS, THAT IS. APPARENTLY BRUSSELS HAD HAD LITTLE REACTION AS YET FROM EC CAPITALS, BUT FORNMINISTRY PEOPLE ARE NOT PESSIMISTIC. FIRESTONE

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